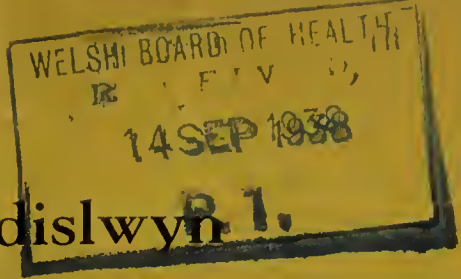
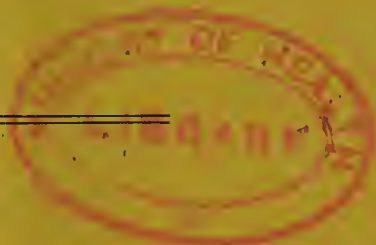


Whitehall



Mynyddislwyn **P. 1.**

Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year ended 31st Dec., 1937

BLACKWOOD :

J. E. ROBERTS, Sirhowy Valley Printing Works,
91, High Street.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1937.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

MRS. HARROLD AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to submit to you my **ANNUAL REPORT**, on the health of the inhabitants of the district, **for the Year 1937**.

I am pleased to say that the general health has been good, and while the birth-rate is lower than last year it is above that of the County—the death-rate is also lower than last year and below that of the County.

I am also pleased to note there has been a reduction in the number of new cases of Tuberculosis, but, unfortunately, an increase in the number of deaths from Cancer.

There was an increase in the number of Diphtheria cases—these being chiefly in the North and Central Wards— but of a mild type. The County Medical Staff traced a number of carriers among school-children and kept them under observation.

Regarding Scarlet Fever, there was a marked reduction in the number of cases, and these were also of a mild type.

Housing

Attention was paid to the repair of old properties, and where possible the amenities were raised to modern standards.

Proceedings were taken for the demolition of ten houses. Although there is a number of houses empty in the South Ward, in the North and Central Wards there is a demand for houses, especially of a type suitable for newly-marrieds and old folks. Until these are available the work of extensive house improvement or demolition cannot be carried out.

There is still a large number of unemployed men who (I am afraid) will not be absorbed into the coal industry again. I think it would be well if instead of families being removed to other areas, the attention of the Government was called to the conditions and an effort made to introduce new industries: otherwise, in time there will be a decrease in the population.

Feeding of School-Children

This has been carried on in the South Ward only, and during the year an average of 140 children per day received a mid-day meal, while many children took advantage of the Milk Scheme receiving $\frac{3}{4}$ -pint per day—a very few taking $\frac{1}{2}$ -pint.

I understand that in a few cases clothing, especially top coats and footwear were insufficient.

During the year a Government Training Centre (which is well organised and is capable of training 150 men at a time, was opened in the North Ward. The trainees have the benefits of medical inspection, dental treatment, physical training and food. A marked improvement was noticed in the condition of the men, some putting on 7-lbs in as many weeks.

I am indebted to and thank Mr. W. Cory Goddard (Engineer to the Abertillery and District Water Board) for the table of Rainfalls, for the year 1937.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. James (the Sanitary Inspector), and other officials of the Council for their assistance during the year.

General Statistics

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	5,415
Population (1931 (Census)	...	...	...	...	15,136
Population (1937 estimated)	...	...	...	...	14,020
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	2,649
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	3,221
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£45,700
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£154 11s 8d

Births and Deaths

			Total—M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	107	113
Illegitimate	...	...	5	1
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)			16	11
Still Births	...	...	5	5
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				41.5
Deaths	...	...		145
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				10.3

Deaths from puerperal causes (heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes ...	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	44	25
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	45	4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer—all ages ...	12	
Deaths from Measles—all ages ...	2	
Deaths from Whooping Cough—all ages ...	Nil	
Deaths from Diarrhoea—under 2 years of age ...	Nil	

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(i) *Public Health Officers of the Authority.*

1. Part-time Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. C. G. Mackay, M.B.

2. Full-time Sanitary and Meat Inspector :

P. S. James, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(ii) *a Laboratory Facilities.* County Council.

b Ambulance Facilities. Nil.

c Nursing in the Home. District Nursing Association.

d Clinic and Treatment Centres. County Council.

e Hospitals : Public and Voluntary. No change from
previous reports.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Rainfall registered at Nant-y-Draenog Reservoir
during the year 1937.

No. of days
without rainfall

January	...	6'33 inches	...	7
February	...	7'54 "	...	6
March	...	4'04 "	...	12
April	...	4'11 "	...	13
May	...	2'84 "	...	20
June	...	1'46 "	...	16
July	...	3'49 "	...	13
August	...	'65 "	...	25
September	...	2'24 "	...	14
October	...	4'90 "	...	20
November	...	2'76 "	...	19
December	...	3'80 "	...	14

In the month of August you will note that there were only six days in which you had any rain. The days during the year in which the heaviest rainfall occurred are as follows:—

12th January	...	'95 inches	10th March	...	'65 inches
17th January	...	'64 "	15th April	...	'89 "
24th January	...	'65 "	15th July	...	2'10 "
2nd February	...	1'19 "	20th October	...	1'12 "
7th February	...	1'00 "	24th & 25th Oct.	...	1'27 "
25th February	...	'79 "	22nd November	...	'85 "
16th March	...	'73 "	1st December	...	'67 "

Water Supply

The main source of water supply, which is obtained from the Abertillery and District Water Board, has again (during the year) been excellent in quality, and fairly plentiful; the service being restricted only on a few exceptional dry periods.

It is pleasing to note that with the exception of a few isolated places, the whole district is supplied with water from the Board's Main.

The Engineer to the Board takes samples at regular intervals, and ensures a safe supply.

Drainage and Sewerage

There has not been any important extension of sewers in the district during the year, but several lengths of sewers in the built-up areas have had to be re-laid, also in some parts of the area culverts have been rebuilt, and water-courses piped to improve the systems.

Details have been submitted to the Commissioner, for the construction of new sewers at James St., Argoed; Brynheulog, near Nailor's Arms; and Babel Row, Cwmfelinfach.

Rivers and Streams

No action has been taken in relation to the pollution of Rivers and Streams in the area; the chief pollution of the rivers in these industrial areas is, of course, the coal-dust: and this is common in the areas through which the rivers run.

Closet Accommodation

The district is well served with efficient sewers, and practically all houses in all the built-up areas are provided with water-closets. There remains, however, a few outlying portions of the area, and houses on the hilltops, which are not within a reasonable distance of the sewers, these are provided with pail-closets.

Public Cleansing

There is very little change to report on the collection of refuse from that of last year, only to add that the regularity has been maintained and satisfaction given.

On the disposal of refuse, however, I am pleased to report that the officials have been able to somewhat improve the system, and the refuse dumps are gradually becoming less unsightly.

Whenever there is earth or soil available in the district it is now transported to the refuse tips and used as an intermediate layer or for covering, according to depth of the tip.

Sanitary Inspection of the area

(a) Number of Inspections made during the year	...	1942
(b) Number of Notices served—Informal	...	158
Number of Notices served—Statutory	...	14

Shops

During the year the Sanitary Inspector made a survey of all the Shops in the area in compliance with the Shops Act, 1934, and reports that nearly all of them are satisfactory. Where they were not in all respects in compliance, letters were sent to the occupiers, and the matters were immediately attended to.

Smoke Abatement

No action taken as the district is practically free from any serious smoke nuisance.

Schools

The schools in the district are supplied with a plentiful and good water supply direct from the mains of the respective Water Boards.

The Sanitary Conveniences and the schools themselves are of modern construction ; periodical inspections are carried out by your Sanitary Inspector, and a fairly high standard of cleanliness and order is maintained in and about the schools.

Swimming Baths and Pools

A properly constructed Public Swimming Bath is in the course of erection at Pontllanfraith.

HOUSING

1 Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	324
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	397
2 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	42
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	57
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	10

4	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	32
2	Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices			
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authorities or their officers	...	...	144
3	Action under Statutory Powers during the year			
	A Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:			
1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...		Nil
2	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—			
	(a) By owners	...	...	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority on default of owners	...		Nil
	B Proceedings under Public Health Acts:			
1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	14
2	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—			
	(a) By owners	...	...	14
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...		Nil
	C Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:			
1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	9
2	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	Nil
	D Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:			
1	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	Nil
2	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	Nil

Housing Act, 1936 *Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	13
2. Number of families dwelling therein ...	13
3. Number of persons dwelling therein :	
Persons over 10 years ...	58
Children between 1 and 10 years ...	23
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	Nil
(c) I. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	74
II. Number of persons concerned in such cases	
over ten—	356
under ten—	15
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report...	Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Foods

(a) *Milk*—The Sanitary Inspector has been visiting the Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds within the area during the year and many improvements were effected as a result of such visits. Special effort has been made during the year to take samples of Milk from all producers and retailers in the district in conjunction with the County Health Department, for the purpose of Bacteriological Examination and the results may have been seen in the Inspector's Report.

(b) *Meat and other Foods*—The Inspections of Meat has been somewhat reduced since the transference of the Wholesale Slaughter House, but there is still a fair number of animals being slaughtered in the small slaughter-houses in the district.

Visits are frequently made to the Shops, Bakehouses and other premises where foodstuffs are prepared and sold.

Vans and Carts used for the hawking of the various foodstuffs, too, are carefully watched and inspected by your Sanitary Inspector.

Meat and Other Foods Condemedned

	Cattle exclud Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed if known ...	64	68	102	1079	586
Number inspected ...	64	68	102	1079	586
All Diseases, except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	0	5	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	15	0	66	15
Percentage of the number affected with disease other than T.B.	12.5%	22.03%	0	6.5% 11.9%	3.07% 5.4%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	2	0	0	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	15	0	0	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	10.9% 4.48%	25% 10.2%	0	0	1.7% 2.64%

(c) *Adulteration*—The Council is not the Foods and Drugs Authority.

(d) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Foods*—All examinations under this heading are carried out at the Laboratories of the County Council.

(e) *Nutrition*—No special work has been carried out by your Health Department under this heading.

Road Accidents

Fatal Accidents ...	...	1
Accidents involving serious injuries	...	6
Accidents involving slight injuries	...	34

Inquests

There were eight inquests performed upon persons residing in your district:—four coal-hewers, one colliery labourer, one sheaveman, one farmer (formerly colliery labourer), and one boy (age four).

Prevalence of, and control over Infectious and other Diseases

Very little difficulty was experienced in obtaining admission to the hospitals, *namely*: Allt-yr-yn Isolation Hospital, Newport; Bedwellty Isolation Hospital; and Monmouth Isolation Hospital.

One case of Cerebro-Spinal Fever, which was reported, proved fatal after removal to hospital.

The number of cases of each disease that necessitated removal, can be seen in the prepared table (Notifiable Diseases).

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-Toxin and Streptocide for puerperal cases is always kept at the Health Department of the Council Offices, and the medical practitioners in the district make full use of this provision.

When notification of an Infectious Disease is received, and enquiries reveal that there are school children in the home, intimation is always sent to the Head Teacher of the respective schools.

After any Infectious Disease all premises and beddings are fumigated by the Sanitary Inspector.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES GORDON MACKAY, M.B.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Age Groups of Cases											Total	Cases attributed to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and up		
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (includ. Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases notifiable locally	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases generally notifiable	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Notifiable Diseases

a. Prevention of Blindness—No action has been taken by the Local Authority under Section 176, Public Health Act, 1936.

b. Tuberculosis—No action has been taken by the Local Authority under either of the following :—

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 172.

Ratio of Non-notified Tuberculosis Deaths to total Tuberculosis Deaths

Non-notified deaths, 1. Notified deaths, 9. Ratio, 1 to 10.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases					Deaths			
Age	Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1			2					
5			1					
10	2		1	2				
15	1	1	1					
20		1						
25	2	2			1	2		
35		1			2			
45	1	1				1		
55					1	1	1	
65					1			
Totals	6	6	5	2	5	4	1	

On receipt of notification of a case of Tuberculosis, the Sanitary Inspector pays a visit to the house to ascertain the conditions and to give a supply of disinfectant.

Where patients are removed to Hospital or Sanatorium, the Inspector again pays a visit and causes the premises to be fumigated, and in some cases walls are stripped and bedding, etc., destroyed. In the absence of Steam Disinfectant, bedding and other clothes cannot be treated as effectively as desired.

TABLE I.-VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1937 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.
Name of District—MYNYDDISLWYN.

Year	Pop'lation estimated to middle each year	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District		'Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District				
		Un- corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	Of Non-Of Resi- dents not reg-istered in the in the District District	9	Under 1 year of age		At all ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1000 Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1932	16140	320	320	19.83	135	8.36	...	30	25	78.12	165	10.23
1933	15930	317	317	19.9	125	7.85	...	26	22	69.40	151	9.48
1934	15800	315	315	19.93	149	9.43	6	28	10	31.75	171	10.82
1935	15300	228	228	14.9	121	7.9	...	33	12	57.0	121	7.9
1936	14020	243	243	17.3	136	9.7	..	18	18	74.7	154	10.9
1937	14020	236	226	16.11	117	8.3	3	25	10	48.54	142	10.12

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 4924. Rateable Value, £45,700.
 Product of a Penny Rate, £154 11s. 8d. Total population of all ages, 14,020 (estimated).

TABLE II.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1937

Name of District—MYNYDDISI, WYN.

Causes of Death	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" occurring within the District (a)										Total Deaths in the District
	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
All Causes { Certified } ...											
All Causes { Uncertified } ...											
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)											
Scarlet Fever ...											
Diphtheria ...											
Tubercular Meningitis											
Child Birth ...											
Enteric Fever ...											
Measles ...	...	..	1	1	...	..	...	...	...	2	
Erysipelas ...											
Whoop ...											
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	
Apoplexy ...											
Cancer ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	5	12	
Arterio-Sclerosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	3	9	12	
Heart ...	...	...	...	...	..	1	4	4	18	27	
Nephritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	3	7	
Inquest ...											
Appendix ...	...	...	...	..	...	2	...	...	...	2	
Intestinal Obstruction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	
Cirrhosis of Liver ...											
Laryngitis ...											
Rheumatic Fever ...											
Puerperal Sepsis ...											
Exophthalmic Goitre											
Diarrhoea etc ...											
Convulsions ...	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	
Want of Breast Milk											
Bronchitis ...											
Gastro Enteritis ...	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	
Asthma ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	
Broncho Pneumonia	...	1	3	1	..	...	2	...	1	8	
Consumption ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	
Tuberculosis (lungs)	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	...	5	
Pleurisy ...											
Abscess Brain ...											
Stroke ...											
Polio Encephalitis...				...	...	...	...	...	5	5	
Senile Decay ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	21	
Other Defined Causes	..	4	...	1	...	3	3	5	5		
Totals ...		10	4	3		9	15	26	50	117	

TABLE III.—INFANT MORTALITY, 1937. Nett Deaths from stated causes at ages under 1 year.

Name of District—MYNYDDISLWYN.

Causes of Death		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All causes	{ Certified	...									
	{ Uncertified	...									
Influenza	...										
Intussusception	...										
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	1
Pertussis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Convulsions	...	...	4	...	...	4					
Pneumonia	...										
Icterus	...										
Gastritis	...										
Syphilis	...										
Tuberculosis Meningitis	...										
Scarlet Fever	...										
Whooping-Cough	...										
Diphtheria and Croup	...										
Nephritis	...										
Abdominal Meningitis	...										
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...										
Asthenia	...										
Spina Befida	...	...	...	1	...	1					
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...										
Laryngitis	...										
Bronchitis	...										
Bronchial Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	1
Twist of Gut operation	...										
Diarrhoea & Enteritis	...										
Rickets	...										
Suffocation (overlying)	...										
Birth Debility	...										
Atelectasis	...										
Congenital Malformation (c)	...										
Premature Birth	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus	...	...	...	1	...	1					
Other Causes	...										
Total		...	1	4	2		7	1		2	3

TABLE IV.—MONTHLY COMPARISON.

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR 1937.

Name of District—MYNYDDISLWYN.

MONTH	BIRTHS			DEATHS			MONTH
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
January	9	10	19	6	13	19	January
February	9	9	18	7	4	11	February
March	4	8	12	6	4	10	March
April	6	7	13	6	7	13	April
May	12	9	21	9	8	17	May
June	15	13	28	5	9	14	June
July	12	9	22	3	4	7	July
August	12	12	24	3	4	7	August
September	8	10	18	6	4	10	September
October	10	8	18	5	5	10	October
November	7	8	15	7	3	10	November
December	7	11	18	12	5	17	December
TOTALS	112	114	226	76	69	145	TOTALS

Transferable Deaths of Non-Residents ... 3

Transferable Deaths of Residents ... 25

TABLE V.—COMPARISONS OF THE DISTRICT.

	Mynyddislwyn 1937	Mynyddislwyn 1936	Mynyddislwyn 1935	Mynyddislwyn 1934	Mynyddislwyn 1933	Mynyddislwyn 1932	County 1937	England and Wales
1. Population ...	14020	14020	15300	15800	15930	16140		
2. Area in Acres ...	4515	4924	4924	5152	5152	5152		
3. Inhabited Houses ...	3221	3220	3217	3463	3462	3462		
4. No. of Council Houses ...	304	304	304	304	304	304		
5. Birth-Rate ...	16·11	17·3	14·9	19·93	19·9	19·83	15·5	14·9
6. Death-Rate ...	10·3	10·9	7·9	10·82	9·48	8·36	12·6	12·4
7. Infant Death-Rate (per 1000) ...	44·2	74·07	52·63	31·75	69·40	78·12	63·9	58·0

Sanitary Inspector's Report

for the Year 1937.

*Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Council Offices,
Pontllanfraith.*

MR. CHAIRMAN,

MRS. HARROLD AND GENTLEMEN,—

I am again privileged to submit for your consideration
my Report for the Year ending December, 1937.

Notices served—

Informal	...	...	...	158
Statutory	...	...	...	14
Inspections made	...	...	...	1942

Below is given a list of the Sanitary defects which were remedied :—

Main, Pantry and W.C. roofs repaired	...	112
Eaves, gutters provided and repaired	...	119
Defective drains repaired	...	76
Drains opened and cleansed	...	121
New Flush Tanks in W.C.'s	...	31
Flush Tanks in W.C.'s	...	126
New Pans in W.C.'s	...	29
Ventilation Shafts repaired	...	33
Rain water pipes repaired	...	85
Dilapidated W.C.'s repaired	...	28
Defective W.C. joints, etc.	...	48
New W.C.'s provided	...	2
Houses repaired (external)	...	123
Houses repaired (internal)	...	61
Cesspools cleansed	...	4
Fowls-cot nuisances abated	...	7
Pig-sty nuisances abated	...	3
Conversion of Pails into W.C.'s	...	Nil
Overcrowding abated	...	74
Dilapidated back-yards re-paved	...	52
Dirty premises	...	18

Slaughterhouses

Number of Slaughterhouses on Register	...	3
Number of visits to Slaughterhouses	...	362

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Meat— These important duties are discharged with the same vigilance as in the past. The three private slaughterhouses are visited regularly while slaughtering is taking place. Any alterations in the time of slaughtering is at once notified.

Full advantage was again taken by persons who reared pigs on cottage premises, or smallholdings, and killed thereon after due notice of intended slaughter, in accordance with the stipulations of the Ministry of Health Circular (604) and the special provisions granted by the Council. All such carcases together with the internal organs were examined on the premises. All meat and other food material condemned as unfit was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed. In no case was a Magistrate Order necessary to secure this result.

Blown Carcases—In accordance with Section 77 of the Mynyddislwyn Urban District Act of 1913, it is unlawful to blow or inflate the carcase or any part of the carcase of any animal slaughtered within, or brought into the district. This regulation has been satisfactorily complied with.

Slaughtering of Animals Act, 1933

With the exception of slaughtering by a Jew or Mohammedon for his co-religionist, all animals have now to be slaughtered by means of mechanically operated instrument. The provisions of this Act are being complied with by all slaughter-men in your district.

The following are the particulars of the numbers of animals slaughtered for food in the locality during the year 1937 :—

1. Cattle	...	...	...	132
2. Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	1079
3. Pigs	...	...	...	586
4. Calves	...	...	...	102

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

In conjunction with the Health Department of the County Council, 70 samples of milk (including repeat samples) were taken for bacteriological examination and for the detection of tubercle bacilli. The majority of samples were ladled out of jacks, serving-pails and churns of retailers on the street; and the standard, bacteriologically, on the whole was satisfactory.

Retailers, whose samples were not of the desired standard were notified and interviewed personally; and the repeat samples which were taken from these purveyors (after consultation) showed excellent results.

I am pleased to report that no Tubercle Bacilli were found in any of the samples taken. The carton system of milk delivery has not with one exception been introduced into this district, but a number of milk purveyor deliver their milk in sealed bottles.

The general standard of your milk supply is a very good one, when, considering the present method of delivery is obsolete and unhygienic. Records of samples of milk ladled out with small measures from open pails, have shewn an increased bacterial count to that of the same milk bottled at the source of production. It is regrettable, under these circumstances, that we lack the necessary legislation to enforce delivery in cartons or bottles.

Numerous visits were made to the cowsheds and dairies during the year, and it was only in a few cases that the cleanliness was not up to expectations. The farmer was spoken to and at the time of the re-visit the conditions were improved.

Several minor improvements were carried out at a number of cowsheds, to my satisfaction.

Unsound Meat and Other Foods

The following articles were destroyed during the year as being unfit for human consumption :

Home-Killed Meat

1.	Beef	...	...	...	2106 lbs
2.	Mutton	...	...	...	180 lbs
3.	Veal	...	...	...	—
4.	Pork	...	...	...	426 lbs
5.	Offal (Beef, Pork and Mutton)	...	...	...	629 lbs

Total English Meat	...	3341 lbs
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Frozen and Chilled Meat (Foreign)

1. Beef	...	...	...	72 lbs
2. Mutton	..	...	...	63 lbs
				135 lbs

The quality of the meat from the animals slaughtered in the district, and the meat brought into the district during the year, was of a high standard.

Tinned Goods

	<i>Tins</i>		<i>Tins</i>
Milk ...	163	Mixed Fruits ...	96
Tomatoes ...	58	Cream ...	15
Salmon ..	6	Herrings ...	4
Sardines ...	11	Tongue ...	7
Corned Beef ...	14	Misc. pots, jars, botts.	71
Lobster ...	2	Rabbits ...	5
Syrup ...	5	Fish ...	56 lbs
Prunes ...	48	Fruit ...	132 lbs
Eggs ...			123

Provision, Butcher, Fried Fish and Ice Cream Shops

The premises that come under the above heading have been regularly visited, and the commodities exposed for sale were inspected and examined to see if they were fit for human consumption

It was not found necessary to serve any notices or take any "formal" action, as anything which was not to my satisfaction received immediate attention.

Ice Cream.—In the absence of regulations enforcing the persons and premises to be registered, it is difficult to obtain accurate information as to the number of people who deal in this much consumed commodity. Only by enquiries from the person in charge of street barrows and carts am I able to discover and inspect the source of ice cream manufacture.

Most of the ice cream sold in your district is produced under hygienic conditions, by persons who appreciate the necessity for scrupulous cleanliness in its production. In other instances—I find ice cream being made in sheds, back-yards or other undesirable places, by persons whose ideas of cleanliness are very elementary.

There is no legal standard for ice cream, and the only control that may be exercised is by application to Section 72 of the Public Health Act, 1925, and Section 75 of the Mynyddislwyn Urban District Council Act, 1913, which deals with the condition of production and storage of foods generally.

The compulsory registration of producers and purveyors of ice cream, together with their premises, is, in my opinion, the only hopeful solution of the control of this important commodity.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops

Number of Cowsheds on Register	...	53
Number of retail purveyors on Register	...	52
Number of wholesale purveyors on Register		23
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	...	159
Inspections of Milk Shops	...	15

Infectious Diseases

Number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified:—

Small Pox	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	12
Diphtheria	...	...	48
Enteric Fever	...	...	0
Tuberculosis—all forms	...	...	19
Erysipelas	...	...	3
Puerperal	...	...	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	0
Pneumonia	...	...	1
Encephalites Lethargica	...	...	0
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	0

Cinemas

Number in area	...	...	2
Inspections made	...	...	5
Notices served	...	...	0

Tents, Vans and Sheds

Owing to the strenuous efforts made in past years to prevent the erection of this type of building for human habitation, very little trouble has been experienced during the year, in respect to any new-comers, and no case has been before the Courts.

Common Lodging Houses

Number in area	...	...	1
Inspections made	...	...	4
Notices served	...	...	0

Increase of Rents and Mortgage (Interest) Restriction Acts

No application was made for a certificate under the above Act during the year.

Eradication of Bugs

Number of	<i>a.</i> 1—Council Houses Infested	...	...	16
	<i>b.</i> 2—Council Houses Disinfested		...	16
	<i>a.</i> 1—Other Houses Infested	...	...	2
	<i>b.</i> 2—Other Houses Disinfested		...	2

The methods employed for freeing the infested houses from bed bugs is by stripping, spraying of Solution D, the use of painters' Blow-Lamp, and some cases Sulphur Candles.

All vacant Council Houses are immediately notified to the Health Department. A visit is then made to the premises, and, if necessary, disinfection is carried out before the in-going tenant occupies the premises.

No steps were taken to ensure that the beds of in-going tenants were free from bugs.

Disinfection is carried out in the Council Houses by direct labour, and in other cases this work is undertaken by the owners or occupiers.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919

The powers exercisable by the Monmouthshire County Council having now been delegated to the Council, are being administered (on your instructions) by myself. The Sewers, Tips, Water Courses and all property likely to be rat infested, have been baited, during the year, with fairly satisfactory results.

I have been called in for advice on a few occasions where the occupier of property has been troubled with the rodent, and the outcome has been generally successful. It is not generally appreciated that it is the duty of the occupier of any premises, from time to time, to take such necessary and reasonable steps as to prevent infestation by rats.

It is regretted that some people prefer to tolerate this very costly and objectionable nuisance, rather than construct their premises on rat-proof lines, so that no access or harbourage can be afforded these vermin. This part of the work demands a fair amount of my time, and to succeed in keeping these pests within a reasonable number requires periodical baiting and investigation.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops

Premises			Inspec- tions.	Written Notice.	Prose- cutions.
Factories	...	...	10	2	0
Workshops	...	...	23	1	0
Total			33	3	0

Defects found in Factories and Workshops

Particulars		Defects found	Defects remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	Prose- cution
Want of Cleanliness	...	2	2	0	0
Sanitary Accommodation unsuitable or defective		1	1	0	0
Total		3	3	0	0

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Harrold and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. S. JAMES.

